

**From:** Gary Shapiro  
**To:** 'microsoft.atr(a)usdoj.gov'  
**Date:** 1/28/02 1:55pm  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

<<...OLE\_Obj...>>

January 28, 2002

Renata B. Hesse  
Antitrust Division  
U.S. Department of Justice  
601 D Street NW  
Suite 1200

Washington DC 20530-0001

Re: United States v. Microsoft Corp., Civil No. 98-1232

Dear Ms. Hesse:

Microsoft has been a valued exhibitor and partner in the International Consumer Electronics Show for several years. Bill Gates has also been a featured keynote speaker at the CES several times in the last ten years. In introducing Bill Gates to the audience the last two years I used a collection of concepts I summarize below. I hope that in approving the settlement you consider some of the sentiments expressed. Not only does litigation cost the business community and taxpayers billions of dollars every year, but additionally, long drawn-out court battles distract businesses from focusing on their core productive operations. With the U.S. now officially in recession and in the face of new concerns domestically, a settlement is needed to provide stability for the industry that has driven the new economy over the last decade.

Ultimately, Microsoft's story is our nation's story. It's about how ideas and a small scrappy upstart can become a world leader and change the face of history. Our country and Microsoft started with driven people pursuing a dream and providing a compelling benefit. Microsoft offered anyone access to freedom by providing a simple interface to conquer the complexities of a computer. Our founding fathers gave us freedoms embodied in the structure and the standard of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. The American Bill of Rights are becoming accepted by the world and improving the world standard of living. So, too, are the Microsoft standards being accepted and improving the lives of millions around the world.

In the Information Age, Microsoft gave us access to information. Microsoft is to other corporations what our country is to the rest of the world. Both are the new kids that did well. Each started as an idea. Each became a world standard. These standards have changed the world for the better. For computer users, Microsoft made it simple to create, edit and send documents and presentations anywhere in the world. I had to edit presentations recently in Egypt, Germany and Switzerland and I was comfortable this year using others' computers in these countries as they all used Microsoft products.

Microsoft has improved the world's standard of living. Microsoft standards

increase world productivity by making computers everywhere easy to use. Without the Microsoft standard it is doubtful so many people would be comfortably using computers. Microsoft has not only made many investors happy, it directly employs some 40,000 exceptional people in some 60 countries. More, many others are employed because of Microsoft products. Microsoft also exports more than it sells domestically. With this positive economic activity, terrific products, and reputation for charity, any other country would consider itself blessed to have Microsoft headquartered within its borders, adding to its tax rolls and employing its citizens.

There is a Yiddish word, "mensch". It means doer of good and applies to someone who you know well and does good things for people. I submit to you that when a company or individual does good things of such magnitude then they too can wear the "mensch" mantle. Not only has Microsoft improved the world's standard of living, but its founder Bill Gates along with his wife Melinda, have donated some \$21 billion to the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation for global education and healthcare. The magnitude of how Microsoft has changed the world and this generosity are so large, that I submit to you both Microsoft and Bill Gates deserve the appellation "mensch".

Sincerely,  
Gary Shapiro  
President and CEO  
Consumer Electronics Association  
[www.ce.org](http://www.ce.org)

Every year you get  
ONE CHANCE  
to see where the entire industry is headed.

2003 International CES  
Your Source for Workstyle and Lifestyle Technology  
January 9-12, 2003  
[www.CESweb.org](http://www.CESweb.org)

<<...OLE\_Obj...>>